

2011

## ANNUAL OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS (AOI)

Cebolla Allotment #00104

Carson National Forest

Canjilon Ranger District

/s/ Anthony Madrid  
District Ranger

5/4/2011  
Date

## AUTHORIZATION

You are permitted to graze 578 cattle from 5/16 – 10/25; you are authorized to graze the following in 2011:

**Table 1 - Permitted & Authorized Use by Permittee**

Permittee	Cattle Permitted #s	Private Land Cattle #s	# Cattle Authorized for 2011	Non-Use #s
Archuleta, David	168		168	
Archuleta Brothers	40		40	
Chacon Family	24	25 <sup>1</sup>	24	25 <sup>1</sup>
Maes, Fermin	32		9	23
Flying A Trust	58		52	6
Martinez Ranch Partnership	68		68	
Sanchez Trust	29		29	
Valdez, Abel	13		0	
Valdez, Joe	25		38 <sup>2</sup>	
Ulibarri, Feliberto	53		53	
Ulibarri, Ronnie	20		20	
Association Bull	23		23	
Totals	553	25	524	29, 25 <sup>1</sup>

1 The Chacon Family is not stocking the private land numbers in 2011. 2 Joe Valdez is grazing Able Valdez's 13 head.

**Table 2 - Association - Permitted & Authorized Use  
Huckaby Management Area**

Number of Cattle Permitted*	Number of Cattle Authorized	Pasture	Grazing Period
553	177	Dagget/Hart	05/16– 06/01

\* Private land permitted cows are not authorized to graze in Huckaby

**Table 3 - Association - Permitted & Authorized Use  
Cebolla Management Area**

Number of Cattle Permitted	Number of Cattle Authorized	Pasture	Grazing Period
389	335	Bano	6/1- 7/15
389	335	Vega Paz	7/16 – 08/31
389	335	Del Medio	9/1 – 10/25

**Table 4 - Association - Permitted & Authorized Use  
Nutrias Management Area**

Number of Cattle Permitted	Number of Cattle Authorized	Pasture	Grazing Period
189	189	Sanchez	06/01 – 07/15
189	189	Tonita	07/16- 08/31
189	189	La Seccion	09/01- 10/25

Dry conditions may require you to remove your cattle from the forest earlier than expected. The dry conditions may cause utilization rates to be reached sooner than the planned dates. Please ensure that you help in moving the cattle. It's critical that utilization rates are maintained as a part of draught management. Movement decisions will be made in cooperation with you and based on the utilization of key forage species and key areas as outlined in the Annual Operating Instructions.

If permittees choose to graze the Huckaby pastures they will not be able to take their cows to the upper pastures of the allotment until 6/1 of that year. If forage or water becomes unavailable on the Huckaby then the permittees will take their cattle home until June 1.

You must continue salting practices to draw the cattle away from the meadows and water sources. It is in your best interest to fully distribute your cattle throughout the entire range. We monitor at the key grazing areas and if these areas are fully used then you will be moving your cattle ahead of schedule and perhaps headed home sooner than your scheduled ending date.

The rotation schedule described above can be changed by the District Ranger when circumstances such as lack of water or overuse occur within the pasture. You may propose changes of pastures outside of the above rotation schedule in coordination with this office. A written justification should be submitted by the Grazing Association ten days prior to the proposal changes to this office before a proposal to change the approved rotation schedule will be acted upon by the District Ranger. The decision made by the District Ranger will be based upon the condition of the range, recommendations of the range staff, and the needs of the permittees.

If you decide to move your cattle off of the grazing allotment early or put on reduced numbers resulting in less head months grazed than the amount paid for, you may want to apply for a credit/refund of unused grazing fees. **In order to do so, you will need to apply in writing for the credit within two weeks of incurring the credit/refund or by November 1, 2010, whichever comes first.** This keeps the numbers accurate and allows for Ranger approval and more accurate accounting of grazing fees the following season.

All cattle should be moved off the allotment by the last day of the grazing season. The last day of the grazing season is not the day to open gates and allow cattle to drift home. Anticipate moves in advance and plan accordingly. We understand that a few cows will be hard to catch. We ask that you make a concerted effort and let us know if you have any cows left on the grazing allotment after the end of the grazing season.

## ALLOWABLE USE

The scheduled rotation, grazing season, and livestock numbers are indicated in Table 1 thru 4 of this Annual Operating Instructions. Adjustments in numbers, rotation schedule, or season of use will be made if allowable use standards are met or exceeded. To achieve the desired allowable use, it is important to have proper livestock distribution. The maximum overall allowable use for the entire grazing season is:

Pinion juniper woodland and grassland – 20-40%  
Ponderosa pine, aspen and mixed conifer – 20-40%

## 2011 ALLOTMENT OBJECTIVES

Authorized reductions in time and numbers of livestock may influence flexibility of livestock management in the deferred rotation system.

Management goal is to improve consistent communication/documentation of actual use to USFS. USFS is requesting a record of actual use, which are to be submitted to the USFS at the end of the 2011 grazing season.

Maintain or improve current range condition of the Cebolla grazing allotment by fence maintenance herding, riding, salting, and good stewardship practices.

It is highly recommended that the 2011 rotation schedule follow a two herd deferred grazing system.

The Cebolla permittees will allow only the numbers, kind and class of livestock on the allotment during the period specified in Table 1 hereof or the annual Bill for Collection, including any modifications made as provided for in Section 8 (c). Part 3 item 4. Permittees will notify the District Ranger at least 5 days before livestock enter National Forest Service lands.

## FORAGE UTILIZATION STANDARDS

The proper utilization of forage is a critical factor in livestock management on the Cebolla Allotment. We will be checking levels of use during the grazing season. We will be visiting the allotment to ensure that utilization levels are within recommended levels. This year we may establish photo points and/or measure stubble height within key areas on key grass species to determine utilization. Grazing Association directors and permittees are invited to accompany Forest Service range staff in the field while these range condition evaluations are being made. Within the Cebolla Allotment the key grass species will include:

**Table 5 - Key Forage Species**

Pasture Name	Key Forage Species	Utilization Guidelines	Stubble Height
Daggett, Hart, Lower Bano, Lower Sanchez, Lower Del Medio	Western Wheatgrass Blue Grama Crested Wheatgrass	20-40% For all Species	3"-5" 1.5"-3" 3"-5"
La Seccion, Tonita, Vega Paz, Upper Bano, Upper Del Medio	Arizona Fescue Kentucky Blue Mountain Muhly Oat Grasses	20-40% For all Species	4"-6" 2"-4" 4"-6" 8"-10"

## MONITORING

A reminder to the permittees, both the Forest Service and the permittee are responsible for monitoring use and stubble heights on the allotment to ensure that proper use levels are not exceeded. If areas within a pasture or the pasture as a whole begin to approach the identified stubble heights, action must be taken to limit additional

forage use. We are especially concerned with use levels in riparian areas and canyon bottoms where cattle tend to concentrate use on palatable feed. We have identified key areas to be monitored on this allotment. The primary grass species on this allotment and approximate stubble heights associated with 20-40% use are as outlined above.

Forage use level should be monitored periodically by permittees to aid in determining when livestock should be moved between pastures. Forest Service personnel will be checking within each grazed pasture during the scheduled grazing period. If use within that key area is approaching allowable stubble heights then the remaining key areas will also be monitored and the pasture inspected to determine overall use patterns. This information will be used to determine if cattle need to be re-distributed within the pasture or removed from the pasture.

The Forest Service may conduct inspections on the grazing allotment during the on-going grazing period as time and personnel availability allows. Monitoring items such as distribution patterns, range readiness, cattle numbers, forage use levels, salting practices, and condition of improvements will be evaluated. The range readiness inspection will determine whether range vegetation and soils are ready for grazing. The permittees are encouraged to participate in these inspections.

There was no utilization data collected at the end of the 2010 grazing season because no range staff were present on the district at the time.

## **IMPROVEMENT MAINTENANCE**

Maintenance of existing range improvements is critical to the proper management of your allotment. In order for rotation schedules to work, all fences must be in good condition. All fences, in the pasture you will be using first, must be up and functioning and any fences your neighbor is counting on in their first pasture. Then, before you move your cattle to the next pasture, the fences in that pasture must be maintained and in good condition prior to cattle being allowed to enter the pasture. As you know the livestock grazing program has come under the scrutiny of the public. It is important that we demonstrate the ability to manage your livestock. This means that the cattle should be in the pastures scheduled for grazing during the times they are scheduled to be there. This year you have requested to perform heavy maintenance on the Cebolla Corral.

## **SPECIAL MITIGATION MEASURES**

In order to conform with Amendment of Forest Plans and the final U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service "Biological Opinion for Ongoing Livestock Grazing Activities on Allotments" which determine a No Affect and/or May affect Not Likely to Adversely Affect on your allotment, the following conditions must be met

### Forage Utilization:

Forage use by grazing animals will be maintained at or above a condition, which assures recovery and continued existence of threatened and endangered species. In order to attain this standard, the above site-specific key areas and key forage utilization standards have been developed for the Cebolla Allotment.

### Mineral Supplements/Salt Blocks:

Mineral supplement/Salt block sites will be regularly rotated to reduce trampling and grazing impacts to vegetation. Cutting salt blocks in half before distributing them on the range is an easy way to avoid having to move them, as they get used before they need to be moved.